

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

105th meeting  
Geneva, 29 May 2019

Item 9

Informal Document No. **2019/23**

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Strengthening the capacity of the SPECA to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through subregional cooperation**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Strengthening the capacity of the SPECA to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through subregional cooperation		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> June 2019 – December 2022		
<b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of SPECA to support countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sub-regional cooperation. The United Nations launched the SPECA programme in 1998 to strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia and its integration into the world economy. UNECE and UNESCAP jointly support the Programme. The SPECA participating countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) attach high importance to the Programme as a unique instrument bringing them together in the search of joint solutions. The Programme operates through six thematic working groups on water, energy and environment, transport, trade, knowledge-based development, gender and economy, and statistics. In 2015, after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SPECA Governing Council decided that the Programme would become a platform for sub-regional cooperation for the implementation of SDGs. Since 2018 Kazakhstan makes voluntary contributions aiming to strengthen the Programme as a platform for subregional cooperation to achieve the SDGs. The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities: A1.1. Provide support for the organization of four SPECA Economic Forums and Governing Council sessions; A2.1. Organize six (approximately) meetings of SPECA thematic working groups.		
This project is linked to the Russian-funded project E262 providing support to SPECA.		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Improved cooperation among the SPECA countries; EA2. Improved capacities of SPECA countries to adopt policy recommendations for subregional cooperation in support of achieving the SDGs in the specific area of the SPECA thematic working groups.		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> This project targets policy makers dealing with policy issues on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Beneficiary countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> The project is directly linked to the UNECE programme budget for the period 2018-2019 paragraphs 17.6 “The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, jointly implemented by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, will continue to serve as the major framework for ECE cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia” and 17.7 “Within its mandate, the programme will contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including within the framework of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly” and paragraph 14 “With regard to cooperation with other entities, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), jointly implemented by ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will continue to serve as the major framework for ECE cooperation with other relevant stakeholders in Central Asia and support to SPECA countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” of the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2020.		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b> 1.5 months/ P4 (Regional Advisor); 1.5 months/ G7.		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (US\$)</b>	
Kazakhstan	20,000	
Kazakhstan and other donors (estimate)	80,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Mario Apostolov	03.05.2019	<b>Section/Division:</b> Economic Cooperation and Trade
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> Catherine Haswell	03.05.2019	<b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Chief of PMU</b>		29.05.2019

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Improved cooperation of SPECA countries	A1.1. Provide support to the organization of SPECA preparatory events and the actual SPECA Economic Forum and the Governing Council (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, November 2019).	35,500
	Travel of 1 staff x 1 mission x \$3,000 Travel of 3 experts x \$2,500  Provide support to the organization of SPECA annual Economic Forums and Governing Council sessions (2020, 2021, 2022) Travel of 1 staff x 3 mission x \$2,500 Travel of experts: 7 missions x \$2,500	3,000 7,500  7,500 17,500
EA2. Improved capacities of SPECA countries to adopt policy recommendations for subregional cooperation in support of achieving the SDGs	A2.1. Support the organization of meetings of SPECA thematic working groups and related events with special focus on regional cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs.	52,500
	Travel of 1 staff x \$2,500 x 7 missions Travel of experts: \$2,500 x 14 missions	17,500 35,000
Budget summary		88,000
13% of Programme Support Costs		11,440
<b>Total (rounded)</b>		<b>100,000</b>